

What is claimed is:

1 1. A composition comprising an erbium metal precursor, an ion forming  
2 activator and, either a group 13 reagent, divalent metal reagent or alkali metal reagent.

1 2. A composition comprising an erbium metal precursor, an ion forming  
2 activator, at least one ligand and, optionally, either a group 13 reagent, divalent metal  
3 reagent or alkali metal reagent.

1 3. A composition comprising an erbium metal precursor represented by the  
2 general formula  $\text{ErR}_3$ , where each R is  $\text{CH}(\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3)_2$ .

3 4. A composition comprising an erbium metal precursor represented by the  
4 general formula  $\text{ErR}_3$ , where each R is  $\text{OC}_6\text{H}_3\text{-2,6-}t\text{-Bu}_2$ .

1 5. The composition of claim 2, wherein said at least one ligand has a  
2 coordination site selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3 or 4, and a charge of 0,  
3 -1, -2 or -3.

1 6. The composition of claim 2, wherein said at least one ligand is characterized  
2 by the formula:

$$\{(a,0)_i (b,c)_j\}$$

3  
4 where a is an integer from 1-4, b is an integer from 1-4, c is -1 or -2, i is an integer  
5 from 0-5 and j is 0, 1 or 2, provided that the sum of  $i + j$  is greater than or equal to 1  
6 and provided that when c is -1, j is 1 or 2 and when c is -2, j is 1 and, (a,0) represents  
7 neutral ligands that may be provided by one or more atoms with a lone pair of  
8 electrons or bonds and (b,c) represents charged ligands and may be provided by one  
9 or more atoms or bonds.

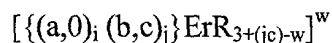
1 7. A composition comprising an erbium metal complex represented by the  
2 general formula:

$$\{(a,0)_i (b,c)_j\} \text{ErR}_{3+(jc)}$$

3  
4 where a is an integer from 1-4; b is an integer from 1-4; c is -1 or -2; i is an integer  
5 from 0-5; j is 0, 1 or 2; and jc is the product of j times c, and provided that the sum of

6 i + j is greater than or equal to 1, provided that either a or b is greater than 1, and  
7 provided that when c is -1, j is 1 or 2 and when c is -2, j is 1, (a,0) represents neutral  
8 ligands that may be provided by one or more atoms with a lone pair of electrons or  
9 bonds and (b,c) represents charged ligands and may be provided by one or more  
10 atoms or bonds; and each R group may independently be selected from the group  
11 consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl,  
12 heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl,  
13 substituted heteroaryl; provided that the erbium does not have two cyclopentadienyls  
14 or three 2-dialkylaminobenzylys or three 2-dialkylaminomethylphenyls or an acetylide  
15 or three phosphorus substituted alkyls.

1 8. A composition comprising an erbium metal complex represented by the  
2 general formula:



4 where w is a integer that is -3, -2, -1, 1, or 2 and a is an integer from 1-4; b is an  
5 integer from 1-4; c is -1 or -2; i is an integer from 0-5; j is 0, 1 or 2; and jc is the  
6 product of j times c, and provided that the sum of i + j is greater than or equal to 1,  
7 provided that either a or b is greater than 1, and provided that when c is -1, j is 1 or 2  
8 and when c is -2, j is 1, (a,0) represents neutral ligands that may be provided by one or  
9 more atoms with a lone pair of electrons or bonds and (b,c) represents charged ligands  
10 and may be provided by one or more atoms or bonds; and each R group may  
11 independently be selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl,  
12 cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl,  
13 aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl; provided that the erbium does  
14 not have two cyclopentadienyls.

1 9. An array of compounds or complexes wherein each array member is different  
2 from the others, and there are at least 8 compounds or complexes in the array, wherein  
3 each of the compounds or complex is an erbium metal precursor.

1 10. The array of claim 9, wherein each compound additionally comprises at least  
2 one ligand.

- 1        11. An array of compositions wherein there are at least 8 compositions in the array
- 2        and each composition being different from the others and at least one of said
- 3        compositions being defined as in either of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

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